

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS VICTORIA DIVISION

In re:)
INFOW, LLC) Case No. 22 - <u>60020</u>
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
In re:)
IWHEALTH, LLC) Case No. 22 - <u>60021</u>
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
In re:)
PRISON PLANET TV, LLC) Case No. 22 - <u>60022</u>
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)

DEBTORS' EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR INTERIM AND FINAL ORDERS (A) AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF W. MARC SCHWARTZ AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER, (B) AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF OF SCHWARTZ ASSOCIATES, LLC IN DISCHARGE OF DUTIES AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER, AND (C) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

THIS APPLICATION SEEKS AN ORDER THAT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT YOU. IF YOU OPPOSE THE MOTION, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE MOVING PARTY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. IF YOU AND THE MOVING PARTY CANNOT AGREE, YOU MUST FILE A RESPONSE AND SEND A COPY TO THE MOVING PARTY. YOU MUST FILE AND SERVE YOUR RESPONSE WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE THIS WAS SERVED ON YOU. YOUR RESPONSE MUST STATE WHY THE MOTION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED. IF YOU DO NOT FILE A TIMELY RESPONSE, THE RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU. IF YOU OPPOSE THE MOTION AND HAVE NOT REACHED AN AGREEMENT, YOU MUST ATTEND THE HEARING. UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREE OTHERWISE, THE COURT MAY CONSIDER EVIDENCE AT THE HEARING AND MAY DECIDE THE MOTION AT THE HEARING.

REPRESENTED PARTIES SHOULD ACT THROUGH THEIR ATTORNEY.

EMERGENCY RELIEF HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND IF THE COURT CONSIDERS THIS MOTION ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS, THEN YOU WILL HAVE LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS TO ANSWER. IF YOU OBJECT TO THE REQUESTED RELIEF, OR IF YOU BELIEVE THAT EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION IS NOT WARRANTED, YOU SHOULD FILE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

RELIEF IS REQUESTED ON OR BEFORE **APRIL 22, 2022**.

InfoW, LLC ("InfoW"), IWHealth, LLC ("IW Health"), and Prison Planet TV, LLC ("Prison Planet TV", and together with InfoW and IW Health, the "Debtors"), the debtors and debtors-in-possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases, hereby move for entry of an order substantially in the form attached hereto (the "Proposed Order") pursuant to sections 105(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 6003 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") authorizing the retention of W. Marc Schwartz (the "Proposed CRO") of Schwartz Associates, LLC ("SALLC") as their Chief Restructuring Officer (the "Application") pursuant to that certain engagement letter agreement by and between the Debtors and SALLC, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Engagement Agreement"). In support of the Application, the Debtors submit the Declaration of W. Marc Schwartz attached hereto as Exhibit B (the "Schwartz Declaration") and respectfully represent as follows:

REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY HEARING

1. The Debtors seek emergency consideration of this Application on or before **April 22, 2022**, or as soon after as the Court's schedule will allow. Appointment of a chief restructuring office to perform the services set forth in the Engagement Agreement is necessary for the Debtors to adequately perform their duties as debtors-in-possession, including preparation of schedules of assets and liabilities, compliance with reporting requirements, and preparation of financial information and testimony.

JURISDICTION

- 2. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b). This matter is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1408.
- 3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105, 327, and 363(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2014 and 6003 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules for the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the "Local Rules").

BACKGROUND

A. Case Background

- 4. On April 18, 2022 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), each of the Debtors commenced a case by filing a petition for relief under chapter 11, subchapter v, of the Bankruptcy Code (collectively, the "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>").
- 5. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors and debtors-in-possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 1107(a) and 1108.

6. As of the filing of this Application, no creditors' committee has been appointed in the Chapter 11 Cases by the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 7 (the "U.S. Trustee").

B. The Debtors

- 7. The Debtors are holding companies for certain intellectual property assets. Debtor InfoW, owns copyrights and domain names related to "Infowars.com." Debtor IWHealth owns cash flow from royalties and/or an agreement with Youngevity. Debtor Prison Planet TV owns copyrights and domain names related to prisonplanet.tv.
- 8. "Infowars"—a conspiracy-oriented website and media company—is operated by Free Speech Systems, LLC ("FSS"), which does business under a registered trademark for that name. InfoW and Prison Planet TV license their intellectual property and domain names to FSS for use in its business but the Debtors do not produce or have any control over the content of Infowars. FSS maintains and operates the website https://www.infowars.com/.¹
- 9. Alex E. Jones ("Jones") owns one hundred percent (100%) of the equity in FSS. Prior to the Petition Date, Jones also owned one hundred percent (100%) of the equity in InfoW, IWHealth and Prison Planet TV. He assigned these equity interests to the 2022 Litigation Settlement Trust (the "Litigation Settlement Trust") before the Petition Date.

C. Pending Litigation Against the Debtors

10. The Debtors' financial distress stems primarily from statements of Jones and other employees of FSS in the wake of the December 14, 2012, mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in which 20 children and 6 educators were killed by Adam Lanza. Various parents of the deceased victims of the Sandy Hook shooting assert, among other things, that these statements were defamatory and inflicted emotional distress.

¹ The Debtors have been advised that all the assets of FSS serve as collateral to repay obligations to PQPR Holdings.

- 11. The relatives of the Sandy Hook victims and certain other parties (the "Sandy Hook Plaintiffs") assert, among other things, that Jones and other employees of FSS made defamatory statements and inflicted emotional distress. In 2018, the Sandy Hook Plaintiffs brought actions in Texas and Connecticut (collectively, the "Sandy Hook Lawsuits") against Jones, FSS, and certain of the Debtors. The crux of the allegations in the Sandy Hook Lawsuits is that Jones and FSS employees damaged the Sandy Hook Plaintiffs by saying or implying that the Sandy Hook shooting did not occur, and that the entire incident was a "false flag" hoax.
- 12. The Debtors are also defendants in other pending litigation unrelated to the events at Sandy Hook Elementary School:²
 - Marcel Fontaine v. Alex E. Jones, Infowars, LLC, Free Speech Systems, LLC, and Kit Daniels, Cause No. D-1-GN-18-001605, pending before the 459th District Court for Travis County, Texas—This case involves an article authored by an FSS employee about the shooter at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Iterations of the article included a photograph of the plaintiff, even though the plaintiff was not involved with the shooting or even in Florida at the time.
 - Neil Heslin, Scarlett Lewis, Leonard Pozner, Veronique De La Rosa, Marcel Fontaine v. Alex E. Jones, Infowars, LLC, Free Speech Systems, LLC, PQPR Holdings Limited LC, JLJR Holdings, LLC, PLJR Holdings, LLC, Carol Jones, David Jones, PQPR Holdings, LLC, JLJR Holdings Limited, LLC, AEJ Holdings, LLC, AEJ Trust 2018, Cause No. D-1-GN-22-001610, pending before the 200th District Court for Travis County, Texas—This lawsuit was brought by the plaintiffs in the other Texas lawsuits under the Texas Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act ("TUFTA"). The allegations are that Jones diverted his assets to companies owned by insiders like his parents, his children, and himself. The Plaintiffs seek judgment allowing them to take possession and execute on the assets.
 - Larry Klayman v Infowars, LLC, et al., Case No. 20-61912, before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Division—The plaintiff in this case brought claims against InfoWars, LLC, Free Speech Systems, LLC, Alex Jones, David Jones, and Owen Shroyer for defamation, Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, tortious interference, and violation of the Lanham Act for publishing disparaging statements about the plaintiff. On April 14, 2022, the District Court entered a take-nothing judgment in favor of the InfoW and the other defendants. The plaintiff has appealed to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

² On April 11, 2022, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia entered a Stipulation and Order [Dkt. No. 504], resolving the defamation action in Brennan M. Gilmore v Alexander E. Jones, et. al., Case No. 3:18-cv-00017-NKM-JCH, resolving that litigation in exchange for a \$50,000 settlement to the plaintiff.

- 13. Jones, FSS, and the Debtors have spent more than \$10.0 million in legal fees and costs since commencement of the Sandy Hook Lawsuits. Despite the substantial amount spent, both the Texas and Connecticut courts have imposed multiple sanctions and ruled that Jones, FSS, and the Debtors failed to comply with discovery requirements such that judgment on *liability* has been entered against them by default.³ No court has yet to quantify the amount of the damages.
- 14. The pending litigation presents a classic "race to the courthouse." The Texas court is scheduled to be the first damages case to go to trial and is set to commence with jury selection on April 25, 2022. The damages trial in the Texas actions is scheduled for months before the damages will be determined in the actions pending in Connecticut.
- 15. Given the limited cash on hand available to the Debtors, Jones, and FSS, there is a substantial likelihood that efforts to collect on a judgment of the Texas actions would result in leaving nothing left for the Connecticut Sandy Hook Plaintiffs or other creditors. Indeed, prior to even liquidating their claims, the Texas plaintiffs sought execution by initiating the TUFTA litigation.

D. 2022 Litigation Settlement Trust

- 16. To address the Sandy Hook Lawsuits and other litigation, and preserve assets for equal distribution to all creditors, the Debtors, Jones, and FSS have created the 2022 Litigation Settlement Trust (the "<u>Litigation Settlement Trust</u>") to provide a mechanism for the payment in full of the litigation claims.
- 17. The Litigation Settlement Trust removes control of the Debtors and settlement funds from Jones and ensures that any settlement of or judgment in the Sandy Hook Lawsuits and

³ The applicable Debtors do not intend to challenge any determination of liability entered by the respective state courts unless the claimant elects to liquidate their claims through continuation of the litigation.

other litigation will be paid according to the terms of the Declaration of Trust and any plan of reorganization in these Chapter 11 Cases. The Litigation Trust has been initially funded pursuant to the funding agreement attached to the Declaration of Trust and the Plan Support Agreement, as may be amended (the "PSA"). The "Initial Trust Funding" of \$725,000 for administration of these Chapter 11 Cases has been paid to the interim trustee or the Debtors' professionals from exempt personal assets of Jones. Upon confirmation of a plan, the Litigation Trust is expected to be funded with additional funds, including \$2,000,000 in cash on the effective date.

18. Contemporaneously with this Application, the Debtors have requested an order authorizing the appointment of former bankruptcy judges Russell F. Nelms and Richard S. Schmidt to serve as trustees of the Litigation Settlement Trust (the "<u>Litigation Settlement Trustees</u>").

E. Proposed Employment of Schwartz as Chief Restructuring Officer

- i. Scope of Employment
- 19. The Debtors seek to engage the Proposed CRO as chief restructuring officer to advise and lead the day-to-day restructuring efforts of the Debtors, pursuant to the Engagement Agreement. The Debtors contemplate that the Proposed CRO will perform some or all the following tasks:
 - a. Make business and debt restructuring decisions, including as it relates to business strategy(ies) and other key elements of the business;
 - b. Manage due diligence requests and other items requested by various constituents as part of the restructuring process;
 - c. Prepare cash flow forecasts and related financial and business models;
 - d. Identify and implement short and long-term liquidity initiatives;
 - e. Prepare Statements of Financial Affairs and Schedules, Monthly Operating Reports, and other similar regular Chapter 11 administrative, financial, and accounting reports required by the Court, as well as provide necessary testimony before the Court on matters within CRO's areas of expertise;

- f. Review inventory marketability and provide monetization alternatives;
- g. Make operational decisions with advice of appropriate governance body;
- h. Implement cost containment measures;
- i. Negotiate with creditors, prospective purchasers, equity holders, equity committees, official committee of unsecured creditors, and all other parties-in-interest and submit proposals for payment to Third Party Funding Contributors, trustees and the Court;
- j. Maximize value of the Debtors;
- k. Oversee all business decisions of Debtors, as necessary or required, utilizing CRO's business judgment.
- 1. Be authorized, during normal business hours, to (a) review and analyze the books of account, bank accounts, accounting source documents and financial statements of FSS and Jones including, but not limited to, QuickBooks accounts, bank statements and included documents, invoices, credit card processing reports, other documents reflecting cash receipts, invoices received and issued, and other accounting source documents, (b) have read-only access to bank accounts used by FSS Jones in the conduct of their businesses, and (c) have access to the personnel, managers, and/or financial professionals of FSS and Jones to interview and request additional documents or information.
- m. Execute all documents and take all other acts necessary to effectuate the restructuring of the Debtors, including in any case before the Court, subject to approval of the trustees of the Litigation Settlement Trustees.
- 20. The Proposed CRO will be subject to the oversight and direction of the Litigation Settlement Trustees, who will have full governance authority over the Debtors.
- 21. Additionally, the Debtors seek authority for other staff of SALLC to perform services required to assist the Proposed CRO within the scope of this engagement.
 - ii. Necessity of Employment
- 22. The Debtors believe that the retention and employment of the Proposed CRO is necessary and appropriate to administer these Chapter 11 Cases and ultimately prepare and obtain confirmation of a plan of reorganization. While the Litigation Settlement Trustees will have oversight of the Proposed CRO and direct the overall direction of these Chapter 11 Cases, the

Debtors need a professional with financial expertise to serve as an officer of the Debtors to perform the services indicated in the Engagement Agreement.

- 23. The litigation between the Sandy Hook Plaintiffs and the defendants has been acrimonious, littered with sanctions, and rages on unabated year after year. For example, when Jones filed an offer of compromise pursuant to Connecticut procedure, the Connecticut plaintiffs responded that the "so-called offer is a transparent and desperate attempt by Alex Jones to escape a public reckoning under oath with his deceitful, profit-driven campaign against the plaintiffs and the memory of their loved ones lost at Sandy Hook." There is no reasonable prospect of a resolution which allows for a fair distribution of recoveries to all affected parties.
- 24. Some of the defendants have faced and been hit with "death penalty" discovery sanctions. Whether these problems were the result of bad faith or merely the lack of someone with the adequate experience and ability,⁴ a qualified financial professional answering to independent fiduciaries to wit, the Litigation Settlement Trustees, is necessary for any negotiations that will result in a consensual plan that provides for payment in full to creditors.

iii. Reasons for Selection

- 25. The Debtors believe that the Proposed CRO is well qualified to provide management services that will assist and enhance the Debtors' efforts to maximize value to their creditors.
- 26. Marc Schwartz is a licensed CPA with more than 40 years' experience providing expert witness and financial restructuring services. He frequently serves as a chief restructuring officer, and as a federal and state court appointed receiver, in bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy

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⁴ For the avoidance of doubt, the Debtors reserve their rights to contest the sanctions on appeal absent consensual resolution.

proceedings. Mr. Schwartz is one of approximately 200 full members of the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers. He understands how to be a fiduciary.

- iv. <u>Proposed Compensation & Reimbursement</u>
- 27. The Debtor intends to file a motion to establish interim compensation procedures in this case. The CRO proposes to apply to the Court for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including sections 330 and 331, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Bankruptcy Local Rules, and any interim compensation order entered in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 28. Subject to the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Bankruptcy Local Rules, the Debtors propose to pay on an hourly basis the Proposed CRO and SALLC from funds of the Litigation Settlement Trust, as set out in the Engagement Agreement and summarized in the following chart:

BILLER	RATE
W. Marc Schwartz (Proposed CRO)	\$690.00 per hour
M. Christian Schwartz	\$470.00 per hour
Managers	\$350.00 per hour
Associates	\$280.00 per hour
Analysts	\$210.00 per hour
Administrative Staff	\$95.00 per hour

- 29. Additionally, the Engagement Agreement provides that the Debtors shall be responsible for the reasonable and necessary documented out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Proposed CRO and SALLC in connection with the engagement. SALLC will submit detailed documentation of all expenses incurred in connection with requests for reimbursement.
- 30. The Debtors believe that the agreed terms of reimbursement, compensation, and hourly rates are reasonable. The CRO will notify the Debtors of any change in the hourly rates charged for services rendered while the Chapter 11 Cases are pending.

v. Retainer

- 31. The Debtors engaged the Proposed CRO prior to the Petition Date. The CRO received a retainer of \$50,000 (the "Retainer"). The Proposed CRO has worked against the Retainer, and, as of the Petition Date, the amount remaining in the Retainer is approximately \$20,018.00.⁵
- 32. Pursuant to the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors propose that SALLC will hold the Retainer to be applied to SALLC's final fees and expenses at the conclusion of the engagement. The Proposed Order modifies the Engagement Agreement such that the Proposed CRO and SALLC shall not draw on the Retainer except upon order of the Court awarding final compensation and reimbursement in the Chapter 11 Cases.

vi. Connections

- 33. The Schwartz Declaration sets out the connections of the Proposed CRO and SALLC with the Debtors, creditors, any other party in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States Trustee, and any person employed in the office of the United States Trustee. To the best of the Debtors' knowledge, neither the Proposed CRO nor SALLC hold any connections other than those disclosed in the Schwartz Declaration.
- 34. The Debtors believe that neither the Proposed CRO nor SALLC holds or represents any disqualifying interest that is adverse to the estate and each is a "disinterested person." If any new relevant facts or relationships are discovered, the Proposed CRO and SALLC will supplement its disclosure to the Court and the U.S. Trustee.

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⁵ The CRO will furnish the exact number left in the Retainer at any hearing on this Application or in a supplement.

RELIEF REQUESTED

35. The Debtors request that the Court enter an order substantially in the form of the Proposed Order authorizing the Debtors to retain the Proposed CRO and SALLC, effective as of the Petition Date pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Agreement, as modified by the Proposed Order.

BASIS FOR RELIEF

- 36. Subject to bankruptcy court approval, Bankruptcy Code § 327(a) authorizes trustees—and debtors-in-possession—to "employ one or more attorney's accountants, appraisers, auctioneers, or other professional persons, that do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate, and that are disinterested persons, to represent or assist the trustee in carrying out the trustee's duties" Bankruptcy Code § 327(c) says that "[i]n a case under chapter 7, 12, or 11 of this title, a person is not disqualified for employment under this section solely because of such person's employment by or representation of a creditor, unless there is objection by another creditor or the United States trustee, in which case the court shall disapprove such employment if there is an actual conflict of interest."
- 37. Bankruptcy Rule 2014 requires certain disclosures prior to the entry of an order approving the employment of a professional. According to Bankruptcy Rule 2014, the application must:
 - a. Be filed by the trustee or committee and served on the United States Trustee (except in cases under chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code);
 - b. State the specific facts showing the necessity for the employment, the name of the person to be employed, the reasons for the selection, the professional services to be rendered, any proposed arrangement for compensation, and, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, all of the person's connections with the debtor, creditors, any other party in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States Trustee, or any person employed in the office of the United States Trustee; and

c. Be accompanied by a verified statement of the person to be employed setting forth the person's connections with the debtor, creditors, any other party in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States trustee, or any person employed in the office of the United States trustee.

A. The Proposed CRO and SALLC Meet the Requirements of Bankruptcy Code § 327(a)

- 38. Based on the Schwartz Declaration, the Debtors submit that neither the Proposed CRO nor SALLC hold or represent any disqualifying adverse interest and is a "disinterested person" as that term is defined in § 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 39. The Bankruptcy Code defines what it means to be a "disinterested person" Bankruptcy Code § 101(14):

The term "disinterested person" means a person that— (A) is not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider; (B) is not and was not, within 2 years before the date of the filing of the petition, a director, officer, or employee of the debtor; and (C) does not have an interest materially adverse to the interest of the estate or of any class of creditors or equity security holders, by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in, the debtor, or for any other reason.

40. The Schwartz Declaration discloses no connections with the Debtors that would disqualify the Proposed CRO or SALLC as a "disinterested person" and the Debtors are aware of no connections in addition to those disclosed in the Schwartz Declaration.

B. This Application and the Schwartz Declaration Meet the Requirements of Bankruptcy rule 2014.

41. This Application and the Schwartz Declaration meet the requirements as set out in Bankruptcy Rule 2014. The Application is made by the Debtors and sets out the necessity for the employment, the name of the person to be employed, the reasons for the selection, the professional services to be rendered, the proposed arrangement for compensation. The Schwartz Declaration is a verified statement pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that sets out all connections that the Proposed CRO and SALLC has with the Debtors, creditors, any other party in interest, their respective

attorneys and accountants, the U.S. Trustee, or any person employed in the office of the U.S. Trustee. The Debtors are not aware of any other connections in addition to those disclosed in the Schwartz Declaration.

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CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter an order substantially in the form of the Proposed Order approving the employment of the Proposed CRO and SALLC effective as of the Petition Date, pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Agreement and grant any other appropriate relief.

Dated: April 18, 2022

PARKINS LEE & RUBIO LLP

/s/R.J. <u>Shannon</u>

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Proposed Counsel to the Debtors and

Debtors-in-Possession

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. This statement is being made pursuant to Bankruptcy Local Rule 9013-1(i).

/s/R.J. Shannon

R.J. Shannon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 18, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served by (a) the Court's CM/ECF system on all parties registered to receive such service, (b) by U.S.P.S. first class mail on the parties indicated in the attached service list, and (c) the following parties by email:

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> /s/ R. J. Shannon R. J. Shannon

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS VICTORIA DIVISION

In re:)
INFOW, LLC) Case No. 22 - <u>60020</u>
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
In re:)
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Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)

INTERIM ORDER (A) AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF W. MARC SCHWARTZ AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER, (B) AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF OF SCHWARTZ ASSOCIATES, LLC IN DISCHARGE OF DUTIES AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER, AND (C) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Upon the *Debtors' Emergency Application for Interim and Final Orders* (A) Authorizing Employment of W. Marc Schwartz as Chief Restructuring Officer, (B) Authorizing Employment of Staff of Schwartz Associates, LLC in Discharge of Duties as Chief Restructuring Officer, and (C) Granting Related Relief (the "Application")¹ filed on April 18, 2022; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Application and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; and consideration of the Application and the requested relief being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and due and proper notice of the Application having been provided, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having determined that

¹ Capitalized terms used by not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Application.

the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Subject to a final hearing to be scheduled by the Court and any objections to the Application, the Application is granted on an interim basis, to the extent set forth herein. Any objections to the entry of a final order granting the Application must be filed with the Court and served according to Bankruptcy Local Rule 9013-1 on or before **May 9, 2022**.
- 2. In accordance with Bankruptcy Code §§ 327(a) and 330 and Bankruptcy Local Rule 2014-1, the Debtor is authorized to employ and retain W. Marc Schwartz (the "CRO") effective as of the Petition Date, as chief restructuring officer, under the terms and conditions set forth in the Application and the Engagement Agreement attached to the Application as Exhibit A thereto, as modified herein.
- 3. The CRO shall hold confidential any material, non-public information of or pertaining to FSS and/or Alexander E. Jones delivered to the CRO, except to the extent that such information and the person to whom such information is disclosed are subject to a protective order that is entered in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 4. The CRO is authorized to delegate appropriate tasks to Schwartz Associates, LLC ("SALLC"), pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Agreement.
- 5. The CRO and SALLC shall be compensated for their services and reimbursed for actual expenses in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Engagement Agreement, as set forth in the Application and subject to §§ 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, and in accordance with applicable Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Local Bankruptcy Rules, and any orders of this Court; *provided*, *however*, that the CRO and SALLC shall not seek reimbursement from

the Debtors' estates for any fees incurred in defending any fee applications in these bankruptcy cases.

- 6. All compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with the above-captioned chapter 11 case shall be paid after further application to and order of this Court, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Bankruptcy Local Rules, the Guidelines, and any orders of this Court.
- 7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Engagement Agreement, the CRO and SALLC shall hold the prepetition retainer pending a final order allowing compensation and reimbursement in these cases or order otherwise directing disposition of the retainer amounts.
- 8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Application, the Engagement Agreement, or the Declaration attached to the Application, the CRO and SALLC shall not be entitled to reimbursement or fees and expenses in connection with any objection to their fees, without further order of the Court.
- 9. The CRO and SALLC shall provide ten (10) business days' notice to the Debtors and the U.S. Trustee before any increases in the rates set forth in the Application or the Engagement Agreement are implemented and shall file such notice with the Court. The U.S. Trustee retains all rights to object to any rate increase on all grounds, including the reasonableness standard set forth in § 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increase pursuant to § 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 10. The CRO and SALLC shall use reasonable efforts to avoid any duplication of services provided by any of the Debtors' other retained professionals in these chapter 11 cases.

11. The CRO and SALLC will review their files periodically during the pendency of

these chapter 11 cases to ensure that no conflicts or other disqualifying circumstances exist or

arise. If any new relevant facts or relationships are discovered or arise, the CRO and SALLC will

use reasonable efforts to identify such further developments and will promptly file a supplemental

declaration, as required by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2014(a).

12. The Litigation Settlement Trustees may, at any time and in their sole discretion,

terminate the employment of the CRO and SALLC without further order of the Court, provided,

however, that such termination shall not affect the validity of the CRO or SALLC's employment

under this Order or any Final Order prior to such termination.

13. To the extent the Application, the Schwartz Declaration, or the Engagement

Agreement is inconsistent with this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.

14. The Debtors, the CRO, and SALLC are authorized to take all actions necessary to

effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.

15. This Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from

or related to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

Dated:	
	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

EXHIBIT A

Engagement Agreement



April 7, 2022

VIA EMAIL

InfoWars, LLC InfoWars Health, LLC Prison Planet TV, LLC

VIA EMAIL: Shelby Jordan

Re: Engagement of Chief Restructuring Officer

Gentlemen:

This letter confirms that InfoW, LLC; InfoHealth, LLC; and, Prison Planet TV, LLC ("<u>Clients</u>") have engaged W. Marc Schwartz ("<u>Consultant</u>") of Schwartz Associates, LLC ("<u>SALLC</u>") to act as their Chief Restructuring Officer ("<u>CRO</u>"), effective as of March 31, 2022, to advise and lead its restructuring efforts involving the scope described herein, including a filing of the Clients under Subchapter V of the Bankruptcy Code.

SALLC understands that the purpose of the engagement is to continue stable operations while maximizing the values of Clients' assets, including negotiations with creditors of Clients and affiliates of the Clients to assure that creditors of the Clients have the best chance of recoveries on their claims. Consultant will work to maximize return and to assure a fair pro rata distribution to all unsecured creditors.

I. Scope of Engagement

Subject to oversight by the Client's governing body, Consultant shall be in charge of Clients' restructuring process. It is agreed that Consultant's authority shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1. Make business and debt restructuring decisions, including as it relates to business strategy and other key elements of the business;
- 2. Manage due diligence requests and other items requested by various constituents as part of the restructuring process;
- 3. Prepare cash flow forecast and related financial and business models;
- 4. Identify and implement short and long-term liquidity initiatives;
- 5. Prepare Statements of Financial Affairs and Schedules, Monthly Operating Reports, and other similar regular Chapter 11 administrative, financial, and accounting reports required by the United States Bankruptcy Court ("Bankruptcy Court") as well as provide necessary testimony before the Bankruptcy Court on matters within Consultant's areas of expertise;



- 6. Review inventory marketability and provide monetization alternatives;
- 7. Make operational decisions with advice of appropriate governance body;
- 8. Implement cost containment measures;
- 9. Negotiate with creditors, prospective purchasers, equity holders, equity committees, official committee of unsecured creditors, and all other parties-in-interest and submit proposal for payment to Third Party Funding Contributors, trustees and the bankruptcy court;
- 10. Maximize value of Clients;
- 11. Be in charge of all business decisions of Clients, as necessary or required, utilizing Consultant's business judgment.
- 12. Be authorized, during normal business hours, to (a) review and analyze the books of account, bank accounts, accounting source documents and financial statements of Free Speech Systems, LLC ("FSS") including, but not limited to, QuickBooks accounts, bank statements and included documents, invoices, credit card processing reports, other documents reflecting cash receipts, invoices received and issued, and other accounting source documents (b) have read only access to all bank accounts used by FSS in the conduct of its business (c) have access to the personnel, managers, and /or financial professionals of FSS to interview and request additional documents or information.
- 13. Execute all documents and take all other acts necessary to effectuate restructuring of the Debtors, including in any case before the Bankruptcy Court, subject to approval of the trustees of the 2022 FSS Litigation Settlement Trusty (the "Litigation Settlement Trustees") or Boards of Directors or managers as applicable.

II. Indemnification

Clients agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Consultant, individually, and SALLC, its subsidiaries or affiliates, the respective partners, directors, officers, agents, contractors, and employees of SALLC and each other person, if any, controlling SALLC or its affiliates (individually or collectively) from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or costs, as, and when incurred, to which such party may become subject to or which are asserted against any party, directly or indirectly, in any way related to party while acting for the Clients under this agreement including, without limitation, in connection with i) any act or omission by party related to engagement as as financial advisor ("FA") or CRO under the Agreement or ii) Party's acceptance, performance or non-performance of obligations under said Agreement.

Clients will advance to the party amounts paid by the party for reasonable and documented legal or other expenses incurred by them, as and when incurred, in connection with investigating, preparing or defending any such losses, claims, damages, or liabilities or any action in respect thereof, whether or not in connection with existing,



pending or threatened litigation against the party; provided, however, that the Clients shall not be liable under the foregoing indemnity agreement in respect of any liability to the extent that such liability is found to have resulted from party's gross negligence, bad faith, willful misconduct, or a breach of this agreement and party shall no later than ten days after a determination of gross negligence, bad faith, willful misconduct, or breach of this agreement refund such amounts previously advanced by Clients. If, in the opinion of counsel, representing both parties in this matter covered by this indemnification creates a potential conflict of interest, the party may engage separate counsel to represent them at the Clients' expense. Such funds shall be made available to the Clients as part of the monies to be requested under the Plan Support Agreement during and after the bankruptcy case of the Debtors.

III. Materials Provided

Clients agree to provide Consultant and SALLC with such financial and other available information as is reasonably required for SALLC to render the services performed or to be performed hereunder. Consultant and SALLC agree to review the information and identify any inaccuracies or omissions that are reasonably apparent on the face of the information provided.

IV. Work Product

Consultant and SALLC shall not disclose any confidential or privileged information to any third party, subject to the following exceptions: i) to SALLC's affiliates, vendors, or agents who provide services in connection with this engagement; ii) with Client's written consent; iii) when legally required to do so; or iv) if such information is available from public sources.

All records of Clients obtained by SALLC will be promptly returned to the Clients at the conclusion of this engagement.

V. Disclosures

Clients shall not disclose any work or analyses of SALLC or Consultant to any third party (other than any direct or indirect equity holder of the Clients) without prior written consent of Consultant, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Neither SALLC nor Consultant shall disclose any information respecting the business, properties, books, and records of the Clients except to professionals hired by the Clients for purposes of this engagement, unless subpoenaed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SALLC cannot assure that, following the completion of our internal conflict search, an engagement for or involving your creditors or other parties-in-interest or their respective attorneys and accountants will not be accepted by SALLC, its subsidiaries or affiliates. Should any potential conflict come to the attention of SALLC, we will endeavor to resolve such potential conflict and will determine what action needs to be taken. You



agree that you will comprehensively inform us of the parties-in-interest to this matter of or additions to, or name changes for, those parties-in-interest whose names you provided.

SALLC may have provided, currently provide, or provided in the future, services to Clients' creditors, other parties-in-interest, and their respective attorneys and accountants in matters or engagements unrelated to this engagement. You agree that party shall not have responsibility to Clients relating to such professional services, nor any responsibility to use or disclose information SALLC possess by reason of such services, whether such information might, by itself or others, be considered material to Clients.

SALLC has performed an internal search for any such conflict of interest with respect to the Clients, its officers, directors, creditors, and other parties and has found no conflicts of interest.

VI. Term & Termination

This agreement shall remain in effect until the earlier of i) the completion of the Support Period of the Clients, ii) Execution of a comprehensive debt restructuring agreement, iii) Confirmation and completion of a plan of reorganization, iv) SALLC or Consultant's resignation, or v) Termination of the agreement by either party upon seven (7) calendar days' written notice.

SALLC may terminate this agreement without notice if Clients fail to make payments when due hereunder.

VII. Compensation

For services provided described herein, SALLC shall be compensated for the services of Consultant on an hourly fee bases of \$690.00 per hour.

If, in consultant's sole judgment, it is determined that additional services are required to assist with the scope of this engagement as outlined by this Agreement, consultant may employ SALLC, which shall be compensated at the following hourly rates

M. Christian Schwartz:

\$470 per hour

Managers:

\$350 per hour

Associates:

\$280 per hour

Analysts:

\$210 per hour

Administrative Staff

\$95 per hour

Clients shall be responsible for Consultant's and SALLC's reasonable and necessary documented out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred in connect with this



engagement. SALLC will provide to Clients detailed documentation of all expenses incurred.

SALLC acknowledges that, should Clients seek relief under Title 11 of the United States Code, and the Clients apply for authorization to retain and employ Consultant and SALLC, the Clients' payment of consultant's and SALLC's fees and expenses shall be subject to Bankruptcy Court approval. The provisions of this paragraph shall not limit nor restrict the indemnification and contribution provisions set forth in this Agreement.

A. Retainer

In order to commence the engagement, SALLC requires a retainer payment in the amount of \$50,000 for the representation of Clients. The retainer will be held and applied to SALLC's final fees and expenses at the conclusion of the engagement. However, SALLC reserves the right to apply the retainer, at any time, to any outstanding fees and expenses owed to SALLC by Clients. SALLC must receive the retainer payment as well as the signed copy of this letter before the firm will take any action or be deemed to represent you. If this agreement is terminated prior to incurring fees and expenses in excess of retainer amount, the balance shall be refunded to Clients within thirty days.

B. Invoicing

Prior to filing bankruptcy invoices reflecting the services of SALLC, including the services of Consultant, shall be prepared and submitted monthly and paid no later than seven (7) business days thereafter through draws on the retainer. In the event the retainer balance is exhausted Client shall pay the invoice within seven (7) business days and deposit and replenish the retainer balance to \$50,000. In case of a disputed invoice, Client agrees to pay undisputed part of any fees. Expense charges shall be submitted to Clients no later than 30 days after expense was incurred or immediately upon approval of Bankruptcy Court. For any recurring monthly charges, payment is to be made on the first day of each month. Upon filing bankruptcy, invoices shall be submitted and paid in accordance with the orders of the Bankruptcy Court.

VIII. Authorization

The Clients represent that this Agreement outlines the engagement and has been approved by Clients' Boards of Directors or managers (as appropriate) and that the individual that signs this Agreement on behalf of the Clients has been duly authorized to do so, including express consent of the Litigation Settlement Trustees, Boards of Directors or Managers.

Further, it is acknowledged that future economic, operational performance or the confirmation success of a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization or liquidation cannot be guaranteed. The monthly fees and related expenses to be paid by Clients to Consultant and SALLC are not contingent upon the results of this engagement and neither consultant



Very truly yours,

Date:

nor SALLC warrant or predict results or developments during the term of this engagement.

SALLC's maximum liability relating to services rendered under this letter (regardless of form of action, whether in contract, negligence, or otherwise) will be limited to the charges paid to SALLC for the portion of its services or work products giving rise to liability. In no event shall SALLC be liable for consequential, special, incidental, or punitive loss, damage or expense (including, without limitation, lost profits, opportunity costs, etc.) even if it has been advised of their possible existence.

Please acknowledge your agreement with the terms of this engagement letter and have your client do the same by signing and dating below. Once executed, a copy will be delivered to you via email. If you have any questions regarding this engagement letter, please call me at (832) 583-7021.

EXHIBIT B

Schwartz Declaration

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS VICTORIA DIVISION

In re:)
INFOW, LLC) Case No. 22
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
In re:)
IWHEALTH, LLC) Case No. 22
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
In re:)
PRISON PLANET TV, LLC) Case No. 22
Debtor.) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)

DECLARATION OF W. MARC SCHWARTZ

- I, W. Marc Schwartz, declare under penalty of perjury as follows:
- 1. I am a CPA and a founder and chairman of Schwartz Associates, LLC ("SALLC"). On my behalf and SALLC, I am duly authorized to execute this declaration in support of the application filed by the debtors and debtors-in-possession (collectively, the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "Chapter 11 Cases") seeking approval to retain me as the chief restructuring officer ("CRO") and SALLC to assist me in those duties.
- 2. Except as otherwise noted, all facts set forth in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge, upon the client and matter records of SALLC reviewed by me or SALLC staff under my supervision and direction or derived from information available to me that I believe to be true and correct.

A. Application

3. I have reviewed the Debtors' Emergency Application for Interim and Final Orders (A) Authorizing Employment of W. Marc Schwartz as Chief Restructuring Officer, (B) Authorizing Employment of Staff of Schwartz Associates, LLC in Discharge of Duties as Chief Restructuring Officer, and (C) Granting Related Relief (the "Application"). The Application accurately describes my proposed role as chief restructuring officer.

B. Disclosure of Connections

- 4. SALLC performed the following actions to determine whether it or any of its professionals has any disclosable connections to the Debtors, creditors, any other party in interest, their attorneys and accountants, the U.S. Trustee, any person employed in the office of the U.S. Trustee, or any of the judges for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas:
 - a. First, SALLC staff sent emails to all email account holders within SALLC requesting the recipient respond to any representation known to be adverse or otherwise connected to the Debtors or their estates. Neither I nor my staff received any responses indicating that a conflict or connection exists.
 - b. Second, SALLC staff conducted a computerized search of all clients of SALLC using the list of parties in interest listed in <u>Schedule 1</u> hereto.
 - c. No connections or potential connections were identified.
- 5. The search uncovered no connections other than (a) SALLC has worked with certain of the professionals on matters unrelated to the Debtors, and (b) SALLC has worked on matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas unrelated to the Debtors.
- 6. I personally reviewed the list of parties in interest listed in Schedule 1 hereto. I do not have any connections with searched parties other than (a) I have worked with certain of the professionals on matters unrelated to the Debtors and (b) I have worked on matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas unrelated to the Debtors.

7. The results of the foregoing connections search process confirm that neither I, SALLC, nor any of its employees or shareholders, to the best of my knowledge, have any disqualifying connections. Neither I nor SALLC (a) have any debt or equity securities in the Debtors, (b) are an insider of the Debtors, or (c) was a creditor of the Debtors on the Petition Date.

C. Affirmative Statement of Disinterestedness

- 8. Based on the connections review conducted to date and described herein, to the best of my knowledge and insofar as I can ascertain, I and SALLC are "disinterested persons" within the meaning of Bankruptcy Code § 101(14), as modified by Bankruptcy Code § 1107(b), as required by Bankruptcy Code § 327(a).
- 9. I am not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider of the Debtors; I am not and was not within 2 years before the Petition Date a director of the Debtors; and I do not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the Debtors' bankruptcy estate or any class of creditors or equity security holders.
- 10. SALLC is not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider of the Debtor; SALLC is not and was not within 2 years before the Petition Date an employee, officer, or director of the Debtors; and SALLC does not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the Debtors' bankruptcy estates or any class of creditors or equity security holders.
- 11. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SALLC and I were retained pursuant to the Engagement Letter prior to the Petition Date to prepare for the filing. My understanding is that Bankruptcy Code § 1107(b) provides that "a person is not disqualified for employment under section 327 of this title by a debtor in possession solely because of such person's employment by or representation of the debtor before the commencement of the case."

D. Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b) Disclosures

12. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 504 and Bankruptcy Rule 2016, neither I nor SALLC have shared or agreed to share (a) any of its compensation from the employment by the Debtor with any other persons or (b) any compensation any other persons have received, may have received, or will receive.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 18, 2022,

By: Man Achard
W. Marc Schwartz

SCHEDULE 1 TO SCHWARTZ DECLARATION

SEARCHED PARTIES

Debtor & Professionals

InfoW, LLC IWHealth, LLC

Prison Planet TV, LLC Parkins Lee & Rubio LLP

Debtor's Equity & Trustees

Alexander E. Jones Richard Schmidt Robert Dew, Trustee Russell Nelms

Creditors & Parties in Interest

Brennan Gilmore Leonard Pozner
Carlee Soto-Parisi Marcel Fontaine
Carlos Soto Mark Barden
Christopher Sadowski Neil Heslin

Dona Soto Nicole Hockley

Erica Lafferty PQPR Holdings Limited, LLC Francine Wheeler Robert Parker

Free Speech Systems, LLC Scarlett Lewis

Ian HockleyVeronique De La RosaJacqueline BardenWilliam SherlachJennifer HenselWilliam AledenbergJeremy RichmanLarry Klayman

Jillian Soto Randazza Legal Group

Attorneys for Creditors and Parties in Interest

Kaster Lynch Farrar & Ball LLP

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Fertitta & Reynal LLP

Pattis & Smith, LLC

Zeisler & Zeisler P.C.

Jordan & Ortiz, P.C.

McDowell Heterhington LLP

The Akers Law Firm PLLC

Law Office of Ray Battaglia, PLLC

Copycat Legal PLLC

Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis,

LLP

U.S. Bankruptcy Judges and Staff

Chief Judge David R. Jones

Judge Marvin Isgur

Judge Christopher M. Lopez

Judge Jeffrey P. Norman

Judge Eduardo V. Rodriguez

Albert Alonzo

Ana Castro

Tracey Conrad

Jeannie Chavez

LinhThu Do

Tyler Laws

Kimberly Picota

Vriana Portillo

Mario Rios

U.S. Trustee Personnel

Alicia Barcomb Jayson B. Ruff Jacqueline Boykin Millie Sall Luci Johnson-Davis Patricia Schmidt Hector Duran **Christy Simmons** Barbra Griffin Gwen Smith Stephen Statham Brian Henault Christopher R. Travis Linda Motton Clarissa Waxton Ha Nguyen Glenn Otto Jana Whitworth Yasmin Rivera